

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (2668)

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Confirmed presence of <i>Meloidogyne chitwoodi</i> in Germany (Lower Saxony)
1.2 Executive summary	<p>Seed potatoes ('Jonas') were sampled on 8th May 2024 and samples were sent to the official laboratory of the plant protection service of Lower Saxony for laboratory examination. Earlier, the potato lot was tested positive for <i>Meloidogyne chitwoodi</i> by Sweden where it was delivered from Lower Saxony and sent back for further investigation on the request of the competent authority of Lower Saxony. The remaining seed potatoes of this lot have already been delivered and planted in Lower Saxony, Bavaria, Saxony-Anhalt and Austria and therefore were traced back.</p> <p>On 14th June 2024, <i>Meloidogyne chitwoodi</i> was also identified in one out of two samples of the returned seed potatoes by the official laboratory of the plant protection service.</p> <p>A demarcated area containing the infested zone will be established soon. Phytosanitary measures will be initiated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. Further sampling and testing is pending.</p>
2 Information concerning the single authority and responsible persons	
2.1 Notification from	Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI), Institute for National and International Plant Health, Germany
3 Location	
3.1 Location	In Lower Saxony
4 Reason of the notification and the pest status	
4.1 First finding in Germany or in the area	Confirmed appearance of the pest in part of the territory of Germany, in which its presence was previously unknown.

4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	Present: at low prevalence, under eradication
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication
5 Finding, sampling, testing and confirmation of the harmful organism	
5.1 How the presence or appearance of the harmful organism was found.	Trace back and forward inspection related to the specific presence of the pest concerned. Due to a non-compliance notification. Sweden detected the pest in seed potatoes from Lower Saxony.
5.2 Date of finding:	24-04-2024
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Date of sampling: 08-05-2024 Sampling of potatoes that have been returned under official supervision.
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen – Pflanzenschutzamt Wunstorfer Landstraße 9 30453 Hannover Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	According to peer reviewed protocols
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	14-06-2024
6 Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area	
6.1 Size and delimitation of the infested area.	10.25 ha
6.2 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Open air - production area: field (arable, pasture) Other plant, part of a plant or plant product.
6.3 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> (10.25 ha, seed potatoes)
6.4 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> (2.25 ha)

6.5 Severity of the outbreak	Low level of infestation. <i>M. chitwoodi</i> has been detected only in one out of 420 sampled seed potatoes.
6.6 Source of the outbreak	Unknown
7 Official phytosanitary measures	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. Those measures are taken inside the demarcated area. Initial phytosanitary measures (destruction of seed potatoes, tracing back of the lot) were initiated immediately. Also, a demarcated area will be established soon and phytosanitary measures will be ordered in the demarcated area (e.g. cleaning of machines and equipment that have been in contact with an infested area or with infested tubers, overall requirements for the movement of soil or soil material, prohibition of cultivation in the infested areas). Further sampling and testing is pending.
7.2 Identification of the area covered by the official phytosanitary measures.	10.25 ha
7.3 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.4 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures affect import into or movement within the Union of goods.
7.5 Specific surveys.	Yes
8 Pest risk analysis/assessment	Pest risk assessment is not required. Harmful organism is listed in Annex II B of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.